

**From:** S. Vikram  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 9:41am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir,

I have been following the Microsoft Antitrust lawsuit from almost the beginning, and as a user who is well versed with both Windows as well as Unix systems, I didn't have much of a pre-conceived notion about the entire issue. I must say, however, that as I read through all the evidence presented at the trial (I actively followed the case), it became increasingly obvious to me that Microsoft had stifled innovation and the true entrepreneurial spirit. I was also convinced (by the clinical way in which they have constantly refused to do anything at all to correct their behaviour when it wasn't in their interest) that small companies with good ideas are doomed if a monopoly like Microsoft is allowed to persist.

The latest settlement falls so short of curtailing their anti competitive behaviour, that I don't even know where to start. Having worked for long enough in the Silicon valley, I know the kind of thinking and the reasons behind the numerous lawsuits filed there for and against infringements of all kinds, as well as the reason why some of them are routinely flouted.

Typically this occurs when the rewards are so much greater than the punishment for not complying with the law. I think in the present case, it is a foregone conclusion that the settlement is at best only a minor irritant, rather than a guide to good behaviour on the part of microsoft.

I therefore request you to seriously reconsider the settlement, so that the true nature of innovation might not suffer.

yours sincerely,  
S. Vikram.